



West Virginia Department of Agriculture
1900 Kanawha Blvd. E., Charleston, WV 25305
304-558-3550

Walt Helmick
Commissioner

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Title: STATE VETERINARIAN & DIRECTOR ANIMAL HEALTH DIVISION

Salary: Commensurate with experience

Headquarters: Guthrie (Charleston area)

Send WVDA Application & Resume to: Anne Oravec, Executive Assistant
West Virginia Department of Agriculture
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East Charleston, WV 25305-0170
Phone: 304-558-2221
E-mail: aoravec@wvda.us

Closing Date: Open Until Filled

Nature of Work

This position is under the administrative direction of the Commissioner of Agriculture and his designee. The State Veterinarian's scope of responsibility includes the prevention, suppression, control, and eradication of communicable diseases of animals and poultry, as stipulated in West Virginia Code Chapter 19 and State Code of Rules and Regulations Series 61. This will include the collection and dissemination of information related to animal and poultry diseases both domestic and foreign, enabling the State Veterinarian to implement the necessary actions to protect animals and poultry from diseases. Other areas of responsibility include planning operations and developing procedures for the Division; directing the work of employees; developing employees through training; evaluating Division operations; developing budget needs; researching new procedures, technologies and facilities to stay abreast of current developments; and raising public awareness of the Department of Agriculture's role in assuring a safe food supply.

- Serves as the primary contact for Department with the United States Department of Agriculture as well as other state and federal organizations on issues related to animal and poultry diseases.

- Answers questions from the public regarding a myriad of circumstances involving animal health and the state's livestock population.
- Provides documentation of animals as required by the Dangerous Wild Animal law.
- Provides for tagging at weekly livestock markets.
- Oversees the Animal Disease Traceability program and supervises the State's Animal Disease Traceability Coordinator.
- Provides assistance in writing grant agreements/applications related to division's programs.
- Administers programs in accordance with the agreements.
- Collects tissues for laboratory culture work, histopathology and other relevant laboratory procedures and analyses.
- Performs epidemiological analyses regarding livestock and animal disease.
- Performs farm animal necropsies onsite.
- Performs final dispositions on suspect animals.
- Issues and enforces quarantines related to animal or poultry disease outbreaks.
- Works with Homeland Security personnel to resolve incidents involving livestock.
- Participates in the Southern Agriculture and Animal Disaster Response Alliance working Group.
- Examines livestock and horses at in-state fairs, festivals and equine events for signs of infectious and communicable disease to determine admission to the event.
- Writes Certificates of Veterinary Inspection at statewide purebred consignment sales.
- Assures humane handling of animals at licensed slaughter facilities.
- Trains meat inspectors in the normal anatomy and pathological conditions of livestock.
- Maintains a positive image of the Commissioner, the West Virginia Department of Agriculture, and the State.

Required Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:

- Knowledge of veterinary medicine pertaining to large and small animals, poultry and aquaculture.
- Knowledge of all federal and state laws, rules and regulations pertaining to animal health issues and the inspection of meat processing facilities under the responsibility and authority of the department.
- Knowledge of the proper disposal of infectious waste.
- Knowledge of procedures involved with the passage of legislation affecting State code and rules related to areas of responsibility.
- Ability to conduct necropsies and collect and analyze tissue samples.
- Ability to perform epidemiological investigations regarding livestock and animal disease.
- Ability to establish and enforce quarantines.
- Ability to respond to animal disease events.
- Ability to create and maintain effective and professional relationships for the Department.
- Ability to make observations, record and analyze data to provide professional suggestions to veterinarians, producers and processors.
- Ability to communicate effectively, orally and in writing, with other government officials, employees and the public.
- Ability to effectively organize division operations.
- Ability to supervise employees effectively.
- Ability to use a computer and various programs/software including the Microsoft Office Suite.
- Willingness to complete any training necessary to become proficient in all areas of responsibility.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Graduation from an accredited college of veterinary medicine with a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree.
- Licensed by the West Virginia Board of Veterinary Medicine to practice veterinary medicine in the State of West Virginia or the ability to become licensed in West Virginia.
- Accredited by the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services in West Virginia.
- Valid driver's license.

Preferred Qualifications:

Five (5) years of professional experience as a veterinarian working with food producing animals, poultry, and horses.

Working Conditions:

- Normal office environment: standing, sitting, walking, lifting, stretching, keyboarding.
- Non-standard work days/weeks which may include evenings and weekends.
- Extensive in-state and occasional out-of-state travel. Driving long distances.
- Exposure to working farm machinery, livestock, and dangerous wild animals. Potential exposure to diseased animal tissue or fluids while performing field necropsy procedures utilizing sharp objects.
- Exposure to unpleasant odors, waste and noise of animals/livestock/poultry.
- Exposure to outside environmental conditions; rain, sleet, snow, low temperatures, high temperatures, high humidity.
- Must be able to kneel, stoop, bend and lift and/or carry more than 50 lbs.

Benefits:

The Department of Agriculture offers a competitive employee benefit package:

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| • Annual Increment Pay | • Medical/Dental Insurance | • Holidays |
| • Retirement Plan | • Life Insurance | • Annual Leave (Vacation) |
| • Deferred Compensation Plan | • Training Opportunities | • Sick Leave |
| • Credit Union | • Flexible Work Schedules | • Wellness Program |

Note to Applicants:

A West Virginia Department of Agriculture employment application must be submitted along with your resume and a copy of your Veterinarian License. A printable or fillable application can be found at: <http://www.agriculture.wv.gov/Resources/Pages/default.aspx>